

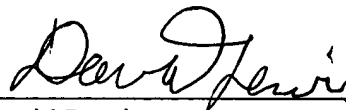
**B. REMARKS**

By this amendment, Claim 23 has been amended, new Claim 26 added, and duplicate Claim 16 deleted. Hence, Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims and the new claims do not add any new matter to this application. The amendment was made to correct an error in the duplicate numbering of Claim 16. Furthermore, the amendment to the claims were made to improve the readability and clarity of the claims and not for any reason related to patentability.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



David Lewis

Reg. No. 33,101

Date: August 10, 2004

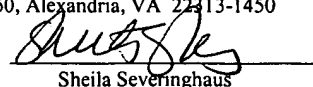
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on August 10, 2004

by

  
Sheila Severinghaus